

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising: one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a carrier.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *mutans streptococci* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. rattus* strain JH145, *S. rattus* JH145 (*ldh, str*), *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downeii*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*; wherein the one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *S. oralis* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. oralis* strain KJ3sm and *S. oralis* strain KJ3; and wherein the one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *S. uberis* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. uberis* strain KJ2sm and *S. uberis* strain KJ2.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *mutans streptococci* are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A food composition comprising: one or more biologically purified ~~isolated~~ *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococci* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more biologically purified

isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more biologically purified isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.

- 10.(Currently Amended) The food composition of claim 9, wherein the one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downeii*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
- 11.(Currently Amended) The food composition of claim 9, wherein the one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
12. (Canceled)
- 13.(Currently Amended) A dentifrice, oral rinse, chewing gum, lozenge, or topical agent composition comprising: one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococci* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more biologically purified isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more biologically purified isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.
- 14.(Currently Amended) The composition of claim 13, wherein the one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downeii*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
- 15.(Currently Amended) The composition of claim 13, wherein the one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* strains are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
16. (Canceled)
- 17.(Original) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to an oral cavity of a subject.
- 18.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is a mammal.
- 19.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining oral health comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of non-persistently colonizing an oral cavity of a subject with therapeutically-effective bacteria comprising administering to the oral cavity of the subject a combination comprising: one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococci* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more biologically purified isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more biologically purified isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the combination is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the subject is a mammal.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to an oral cavity of a subject.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein maintaining oral health comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about one time, two times or more times per day.

31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising: one or more biologically purified isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are

non-pathogenic, one or more biologically purified isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more biologically purified isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.